

the transmission 22 to the front wheels 7. The rear axle 24 transmits the power that is input from the transmission 22 to the rear wheels 8.

[0044] As illustrated in FIG. 3, the tractor 1 includes the control unit 4. The control unit 4 is configured as an ordinary computer and includes an illustration-omitted arithmetic device such as a CPU, a storage device such as a non-volatile memory, an input-output unit, etc. The storage device stores various kinds of programs, data related to the control of the tractor 1, etc. The arithmetic device is capable of reading various kinds of programs from the storage device and executing the programs. By the cooperation of the above-described hardware and software, the control unit 4 can be operated as a travel control unit 4a and a work machine control unit 4b. The travel control unit 4a controls the traveling (forward traveling, reverse traveling, stopping, turning, etc.) of the travel machine body 2. The work machine control unit 4b controls the operation (raising/lowering, driving, stopping, etc.) of the work machine 3. Note that the control unit 4 can also perform controls other than the above (for example, analysis of captured images, etc.). Further, the control unit 4 can be configured with one computer or configured with multiple computers.

[0045] The travel control unit 4a performs vehicle speed control for controlling the vehicle speed of the tractor 1 and steering control for steering the tractor 1. In a case of controlling the vehicle speed, the control unit 4 controls at least one of the rotation speed of the engine 10 and the gear ratio of the transmission 22.

[0046] Specifically, the engine 10 is provided with a governor device 41 including an illustration-omitted actuator for changing the rotation speed of the engine 10. The travel control unit 4a is capable of controlling the rotation speed of the engine 10 by controlling the governor device 41. Further, the fuel injection device 45 for adjusting the injection timing and injection amount of fuel to be injected (supplied) into the combustion chamber of the engine 10 is installed in the engine 10. By controlling the fuel injection device 45, the travel control unit 4a is capable of stopping the supply of fuel to the engine 10 and stopping the driving of the engine 10, for example.

[0047] Further, the transmission 22 is provided with the transmission device 42, which is a hydraulic continuously-variable transmission device with a movable swash plate, for example. The travel control unit 4a changes the gear ratio of the transmission 22 by changing the angle of the swash plate of the transmission device 42 by use of an illustration-omitted actuator. By performing the above processing, the tractor 1 is changed to a target vehicle speed.

[0048] In a case of performing the steering control, the travel control unit 4a controls the rotation angle of the steering handle 12. Specifically, the steering actuator 43 is disposed in the middle part of the rotation shaft (steering shaft) of the steering handle 12. With this configuration, in a case where the tractor 1 travels on a predetermined path, the control unit 4 calculates an appropriate rotation angle of the steering handle 12 so that the tractor 1 travels along the path and controls the rotation angle of the steering handle 12 to the obtained rotation angle by driving the steering actuator 43.

[0049] The work machine control unit 4b switches between driving and stopping of the work machine 3 by controlling the PTO switch 17, based on whether or not a work execution condition is satisfied. Further, the work

machine control unit 4b controls raising and lowering of the work machine 3. Specifically, the tractor 1 is provided with the raising-lowering actuator 44, which is configured with a hydraulic cylinder, etc., in the vicinity of a three-point link mechanism that connects the work machine 3 to the travel machine body 2. The work machine control unit 4b drives the raising-lowering actuator 44 to cause the work machine 3 to perform a raising-lowering operation as appropriate, so that it is possible to perform the work with the work machine 3 at a desired height.

[0050] The tractor 1 provided with the control unit 4 as described above controls each part of the tractor 1 (the travel machine body 2, the work machine 3, etc.) by the control unit 4 without a user boarding the cabin 11 and performing various operations, so that the tractor 1 can autonomously perform work while autonomously traveling in the farm field.

[0051] Next, an explanation is given of a configuration for acquiring information necessary for autonomous traveling. Specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 3, etc., the tractor 1 of the present embodiment includes the positioning antenna 6, the wireless communication antenna 48, the front camera 56, the rear camera 57, the vehicle speed sensor 53, the steering angle sensor 52, etc. Further, in addition to the above, the tractor 1 includes an inertial measurement unit (IMU) capable of specifying the posture (roll angle, pitch angle, yaw angle) of the travel machine body 2.

[0052] The positioning antenna 6 receives a signal from a positioning satellite that configures a positioning system such as a satellite positioning system (GNSS). As illustrated in FIG. 1, the positioning antenna 6 is attached to the upper surface of the roof 5 of the cabin 11 of the tractor 1. The positioning signal received by the positioning antenna 6 is input to the position information acquisition unit 49 illustrated in FIG. 3, which is a position detection unit. The position information acquisition unit 49 calculates and acquires the position information of the travel machine body 2 of the tractor 1 (strictly speaking, the positioning antenna 6) as latitude/longitude information, for example. The position information acquired by the position information acquisition unit 49 is input to the control unit 4 and utilized for autonomous traveling.

[0053] Note that, although a high-precision satellite positioning system utilizing the GNSS-RTK method is used in the present embodiment, the present embodiment is not limited as such, and it is also possible to use other positioning systems as long as high-precision position coordinates can be obtained. For example, a relative positioning system (DGPS) or a geosynchronous satellite navigation augmentation system (SBAS) may be used.

[0054] The wireless communication antenna 48 is for receiving a signal from the wireless communication terminal 46 operated by the user and for transmitting a signal to the wireless communication terminal 46. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the wireless communication antenna 48 is attached to the upper surface of the roof 5 provided on the cabin 11 of the tractor 1. The signal from the wireless communication terminal 46 received by the wireless communication antenna 48 is signal-processed by the wireless communication unit 40 illustrated in FIG. 3 and then input to the control unit 4. Further, the signal transmitted from the control unit 4, etc., to the wireless communication terminal 46 is signal-processed by the wireless communication unit 40 and then